



## Questions for the 2008 Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition

Theme: Citizen Involvement

### Panel 1

Seventy-five years ago, 6,000 citizens signed a petition asking Governor C. Douglass Buck and the Delaware General Assembly to establish Delaware Day on December 7, 1933.

Define the word “petition.” Explain the purpose of this 1933 petition.

Write a classroom petition either supporting or offering an alternative proposal for celebrating Delaware Day honoring Delaware’s ratification of the federal Constitution on December 7, 1787.

### Panel 2

The Constitution of the United States of America was written in secret during the federal convention of 1787. Identify the names of the Delawareans who attended this convention.

Delegates debated the issue of ratification throughout the convention. On July 23, 1787, James Madison (a delegate from Virginia) suggested that “...ratification of the Constitution must of necessity be obtained from the people.” On September 17, 1787, George Mason (a delegate from Virginia) shared these thoughts: “This Constitution had been formed without the knowledge or idea of the people...It was improper to say to the people, take this or nothing.”

How did people learn about the Constitution?

### Panel 3

2008 marks the 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America. Explain the meaning of the word “ratify.”

Examine Article VII of the Constitution. Identify the number of states required to ratify this historic document. Explain the ratification process. How many Delawareans participated in the state’s ratification convention and what types of occupations did they represent?

Did the establishment of ratification conventions provide an opportunity for “people” to review the Constitution? Why or why not?

### Panel 4

Ratification was a difficult process. States considered many issues. Identify two issues debated by states in the ratification process. How long did the ratification process take? Explain how John Dickinson, a Delaware delegate, promoted ratification? Did all states agree unanimously?